

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: KAWASAKI et al.

Serial No.: 09/978,142

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Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: S.P. Seifke

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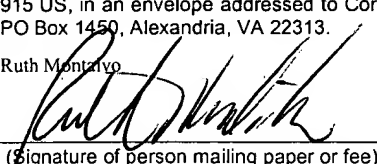
**DRY ANALYTICAL ELEMENT AND
IT'S MANUFACTURING METHOD**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants hereby submit this preliminary amendment. This amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the merits.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any document referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being:	
EXPRESS MAIL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service on, March 25, 2005, with sufficient postage as Express Mail, No. EV 398 731 915 US, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313. Ruth Montalvo  (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)	FACSIMILE <input type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile on [date] to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Type Signature Name Here (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)